

In the Claims

Claims remaining in the application are as follows:

1. (Previously presented): A method for handling image data within a digital camera having a memory storage unit for storing image data, the camera connectable to an external information handling system adapted to receive image data from the camera, the method comprising:

storing image data elements in an image storage queue in a chronological order based on time of image capture by the camera;  
assigning each image data element an archival status;  
indicating said archival status of said image data element; and  
determining capacity for the camera to add additional image data elements to the image storage queue as a function of said archival status and said chronological order in combination.

2. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 1, further comprising associating each said image data element with a header, wherein said header stores information relating to image data element archival status and time and date of associated image data capture:  
detecting when the image storage queue is full;  
determining whether at least one image stored in the image storage queue is marked as archived; and  
if at least one image is marked as archived, deleting an oldest archived image from the image storage queue.

3. (Previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein each said image data element has a filename for identifying the image data element in a directory system, and wherein said indicating comprises naming said filename to indicate said archival status.

4. (Previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein said indicating comprises:

creating an organizational structure comprising a file system directory including a reserved location for archived image data elements; and  
placing archived image data elements in said reserved location.

5. (Original): The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
archiving one said image data element, said archiving comprising copying said image  
data element to the external information handling system; and  
changing said archival status of said image data element to indicate that said data  
element is archived.

6. (Original): The method of claim 5, further comprising associating each said  
image data element with a header, wherein said changing said archival status comprises  
changing the contents of said header.

7. (Original): The method of claim 6, wherein said header comprises a data bit  
indicating archival status, wherein said changing the contents of said header comprises  
inverting said data bit.

8. (Previously presented): The method of claim 5, wherein said image data  
element has a filename for identifying the image data element in a directory system  
comprising at least one character, and wherein said changing comprises altering said  
filename by at least one character.

9. (Original): The method of claim 5, further comprising receiving a selection of  
one said image data element for archiving.

10. (Original): The method of claim 5, wherein said archiving comprises:  
connecting the camera to the external information handling system; and  
copying said image data element from the memory storage unit in the camera to the  
external information handling system.

11. (Original): The method of claim 5, wherein the memory storage unit  
includes a removable storage medium, and wherein said archiving comprises:  
removing the removable storage medium from the camera;  
connecting the removable storage medium to the external information handling  
system; and  
copying said image data element from the removable storage medium to the external  
information handling system.

12. (Previously presented): The method of claim 5, further comprising:  
determining that the memory storage unit is full;  
determining that at least one said image data element in said image storage queue has  
been archived; and  
deleting from the memory storage unit at least one said archived image data element  
according to the chronological order.

13. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 12, wherein said deleting  
comprises deleting the oldest archived image data element in said image storage queue from  
the memory storage unit.

14. (Original): The method of claim 5, further comprising:  
determining that the memory storage unit is full;  
determining that no said image data element in said image storage queue has been  
archived; and  
notifying a user that the memory storage unit is full.

15. (Original): The method of claim 14, further comprising:  
receiving a selection of an image data element for deletion; and  
deleting said selected image data element from the memory storage unit.

16. (Previously presented): A digital camera adapted for connection to an external  
information handling system, the camera comprising:  
an image acquisition unit;  
a memory storage unit coupled to the image acquisition unit and configured to store a  
plurality of image data elements chronologically based on time of image  
capture; and  
a controller coupled to the image acquisition unit and coupled to the memory storage  
unit, the controller assigning each image data element an archival status,  
indicating said archival status of said image data element, and determining  
capacity for the camera to add additional image data elements to the image  
storage queue as a function of said archival status and said chronological  
order in combination.

17. (Currently Amended): The camera of claim 16, wherein:  
said memory storage unit comprises media removable from the camera controller is  
adapted for detecting when the image storage queue is full;  
determining whether at least one image stored in the image storage queue is marked  
as archived; and  
if at least one image is marked as archived, deleting an oldest archived image from  
the image storage queue.

18. (Previously presented): A computer program product for controlling the handling of image data within a digital camera having a memory storage unit for storing image data, the camera connectable to an external information handling system adapted to receive image data from the camera, the computer program product comprising:  
instructions for storing image data elements in an image storage queue in a chronological order based on time of image capture by the camera, each image data element having an archival status;  
instructions for indicating said archival status of said image data element; and  
instructions for determining capacity for the camera to add additional image data elements to the image storage queue as a function of said archival status and said chronological order in combination.

19. (Original): The computer program product of claim 18, further comprising:  
instructions for archiving one said image data element, said archiving comprising copying said image data element to the external information handling system; and  
instructions for changing said archival status of said image data element to indicate that said data element is archived.

20. (Previously presented): The computer program product of claim 19, further comprising:  
instructions for determining that the memory storage unit is full;  
instructions for determining that at least one said image data element in said image storage queue has been archived; and

instructions for deleting from the memory storage unit at least one said archived image data element according to the chronological order.